

American Opinion Summary

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CUBA

Charges and "clarification" about the Cuban situation evoke further discussion of a "remedy" for Russian military strength on the island.

Some emphasize the need to "proceed with caution and care," as prescribed by President Kennedy. "No one has thus far been able to propose a practical or realistic alternative to the Administration's present policy of 'watchful waiting'," declares the Philadelphia Bulletin; although, "now the public and the Congress have a better background with which to gauge that policy."

The Providence Journal finds "a disturbing lack of perspective revealed in the current uproar." While there should be concern about events "only a stone's throw" from the U.S., the Journal declares, "what must be of far greater concern to Americans is the reported rapid buildup of hardened long-range missiles in the Soviet Union" -- also only a stone's throw from U.S. soil -- and U.S. retention of sufficient retaliatory forces.

Sen. Aiken (R-Vt.) suggests that, "when recovered, Cuba will have to be recovered by Cubans, themselves"; however, "I would be more critical of the President if I had the full answer as to what to do in Cuba today," Aiken adds.

The Boston Herald agrees with Under Secretary Ball that "hectoring" of the Administration "should stop." Most critics having been "satisfied" about the missiles withdrawals, the Herald doubts that "timing" of the departure of Soviet forces on the island is "important enough to justify another ultimatum and another exchange of nuclear threats."

But others show more impatience. Scripps-Howard's Washington News would reject Mr. Ball's suggestion. It is because of Congressional "needling" of the Administration that the public "now knows" much about the situation, the News maintains.

To Sen. Javits (R-N.Y.), "a U.S. policy on Cuba appears to be unformed." Sen. Keating (R-N.Y.) urges that the President should make periodic reports to the people to keep them abreast of developments.

David Laurence cautions that "constant repetition of expressions on fear of war" in handling Cuba could lead the Kremlin to misjudge U.S. resoluteness. To the Philadelphia Inquirer, the prospect that Russia may attempt to exploit her presence in Cuba at the disarmament conference is "an added reason" why Khrushchev ought to be told firmly to "get his troops out of Cuba."

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